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15 August 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Walter Minnick, Chief, Drug Management Division, OMB

25X1 1. I telephoned Mr. Minnick in response to a telephone call from Andy Marshall to [redacted] originally intended for [redacted] who is on leave). Andy had said Mr. Minnick wanted to discuss how USIB and NSCIC could be brought into the drug picture. My call to Mr. Minnick was to indicate a willingness to meet with him. 25X1

25X1 2. Before making the call I ascertained that Mr. Minnick has been dealing with [redacted] and that on the basis of requests from Mr. Minnick to [redacted] DDI had prepared several papers on such topics as drug-related corruption in Mexico, the situation in the "Golden Triangle," illicit codeine production, and the expected reactions of selected governments to changes in U.S. drug policy. 25X1

3. Mr. Minnick said he was interested in discussing two problems: 25X1

[Redacted]

b. Mr. Minnick said he had not attempted to have the priority of drug traffic intelligence raised because he had been advised that CIA thought it would cause trouble to raise the issue at USIB.

(I did not mention to him that the new Attachment to DCID 1/2 gives drug traffic a high priority in a considerable number of countries and that special reference to these priorities is in the new "DCI Perspectives of the Intelligence Environment.")

Second, to what extent has the fallout from Watergate and flak about CIA activity in intelligence gathering against U.S. citizens had a harmful impact on CIA overseas collection of information on illicit drug traffic?

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a. Mr. Minnick said he understood that CIA has cut back on its efforts when collection of data on drug traffic in foreign countries involved surveillance of U.S. citizens or persons who worked for Americans. He said that CIA was reportedly sensitive on this matter in view of the possibility that court actions against persons charged with involvement in drug traffic might expose CIA methods or sources.

4. Mr. Minnick said he had queried Andy Marshall as to whether these were legitimate problems which should be raised either with NSCIC or USIB.

5. I said I would check as to whether there was a basis for the reports which had been made to him--sources of which he did not indicate--and that I would be back in touch with him.

6. Staff contact in Mr. Minnick's organization should be with Tom Peters (telephone 395-4903).

7. [] has been tasked to assemble information relating to Mr. Minnick's comments in Para. 3 above, after which I will discuss with [] a proposed approach to Mr. Minnick.

[]

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Orig-MG Graham

1-PRG Chron

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